

THE
PRAYER,
AND THE
ADDRESS
TO THE
VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION
OF THE
BANK of ENGLAND,
UPON THE
CONSECRATION OF ITS COLOURS,

ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1799,

BY THE
Rev. RICHARD LLOYD, A. M.
Reclor of Midhurst, in Sussex.

THE
S P E E C H
OF
Mrs. THORNTON,
THE
LADY of SAMUEL THORNTON, Esq. M. P.
Governor of the Bank of England,
ON PRESENTING THE COLOURS.

AND
THE REPLY
OF
JOHN WHITMORE, Esq. M. P.
Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the Bank Regiment.

Printed by John March, Tower-hill.



THE
PRAYER.

O Almighty Lord God; who “doest according to thy will, in the Army of Heaven, and amongst the Inhabitants of the Earth”; and who “alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men”: we acknowledge, that it is through thy unspeakable goodness, that we have been hitherto preserved amidst all “the changes and chances of this mortal life”, and are permitted to approach Thee on the present occasion.

“As thy Majesty is, so is thy Mercy”!
“Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name be the praise”, for all the blessings, spiritual and temporal, which we enjoy. That these blessings may be continued to us,

impress our minds, we beseech thee, with a just sense of our great and multiplied obligations to thee; grant us unfeigned repentance for our past transgressions; and endue us with such a portion of thy "heavenly Grace", as may enable us to lead the rest of our lives "according to thy holy word."

We are well assured, that "Righteousness exalteth a nation, and that Sin is a reproach to any people", assist us therefore, O God our Defence, to take good heed to ourselves in this day of blasphemy and rebuke; and, from "thy judgments, which are abroad in the earth," may we, as a nation, "learn righteousness."

In the name, and through the merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we present before thee these symbols of our zeal in thy service, of our dutiful allegiance to our King, and of our sincere attachment to the Laws of
our

our Country. May thy especial blessing accompany these Banners, which are consecrated to thy Glory; and crown with prosperity these our just endeavours, in our own defence and security.

Without thee “nothing is strong, nothing is holy”. Give therefore thy wisdom to those who are in authority; that “they may live in the true faith and fear of GOD”, and in brotherly love one with another. And more especially we pray, that thou wouldst guard and protect our gracious Sovereign; that “no weapon raised against him may prosper.” “Abate the pride, assuage the malice, and confound the devices” of all his enemies: and upon our present undertaking, vouchsafe thy blessing; that this, and all our other works, begun in thy sacred name, may terminate in thy Glory, and in the welfare of the state to which we belong.

We

We implore these mercies, in the name, and through the mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord; in whose comprehensive form of words we thus address thee——

Our Father, which art in Heaven; hallowed be thy name: Thy Kingdom come: Thy Will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven: Give us this day our daily Bread: And forgive us our Trespases, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into Temptation; but deliver us from Evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of GOD, and the Fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.

THE
ADDRESS.

WHEN I consider the nature of the present Association, and the grand objects it has to protect, I cannot but feel pleasure in addressing myself to Gentlemen so highly distinguished for their Loyalty to their King, and for their Zeal in defence of the political and commercial interests of the Kingdom. Before such characters, armed in defence of their sacred Rights, I need not enlarge upon the various and inestimable Blessings of our glorious and unrivalled Constitution—a Constitution raised, not by metaphysical speculations and idle theories, not by the violence of contending parties, but by the slow deliberative wisdom of successive ages — a Constitution, involving within it (what was never displayed in ancient governments

governments) the true principles of Republicanism, of Aristocracy, and of Monarchy; and these principles so combined and balanced, as mutually to guard and controul each other's respective powers, and to produce, through this happy equilibrium, a *degree* of Liberty, and a *security* for it, which no Republican government ever did, or, from its very nature can produce. In this highly favoured nation every man may do what he pleases : provided he does nothing contrary to the welfare of the state to which he belongs. Our Laws are founded upon *general* principles : and, by imposing necessary restraints upon our *natural* freedom, they only serve to enlarge our *Civil* Liberty ; to promote our happiness as members of the Body politic ; and to secure to honest Industry the fruits of her own exertions, against the encroachments of wild ambition, or the more silent depredations of profligate idleness.

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If we pass on, and look to the Administration of Justice, we shall find the best provision made for the protection and security both of our persons, and of our property. By our glorious Constitution, the Legislative and Judicial powers are wisely separated ; our Judges are rendered independent, our trials rest on the decision of Juries, and Criminals are uniformly acquitted, unless *legal* guilt can be proved and substantiated against them, (however suspected of moral guilt, and political profligacy.) Is not this LIBERTY ? Is not this the Liberty which we Englishmen enjoy ? Are not the Rights of the Poor, as well as of the Rich, sacred and inviolable ? Are not our Courts of Justice open to the one as well as to the other ? Do not the streams of Justice flow indifferently through the Land, enriching and fertilizing the plains below, as well as the " high places of the earth." Whilst the sound of war and the clang of arms are heard in all directions, yet we " sit under our own vine and under our own fig-tree, none

daring to make us afraid." The produce of our several trades and professions are enjoyed in perfect peace and safety. These Blessings we feel from day to day. They are like the Light of Heaven, and the Air we breathe. They surround us on every side: they are incorporated with our very political existence. Would you appreciate their value from their loss, look to FRANCE. Behold all Ranks and Conditions of Men, from the King once upon his Throne down to the lowest Subject in his Realm, consigned over to ignominious chains, imprisonment, and death, without, or scarcely having, the mock solemnities of a trial. Is this LIBERTY? Our ears of late have been insulted by a vile prostitution of words. LIBERTY is a sacred name: it has no alliance with either *Despotism* or *Licentiousness*: it exists in the middle regions: it is the offspring of well-founded power; it is the effect of well regulated authority.

These great and inestimable Blessings, and various others, connected with them, and necessarily

cessarily resulting from them, you are engaged this day to defend. Your ardor in their defence, my Honoured Brethren, ought to be regulated by their Worth, and by the Dangers to which they are exposed.

Do you ask me, what are the Dangers? Whatever some men may have said about the origin of the present war,—whatever strong language of Condemnation they may have held relative to the Administration of the Country, and the Measures it has adopted—however well they may have thought of the Revolution of France in its early period; and whatever bold and sanguine expectations they may have formed of the advantages to be derived from it—we have at length arrived at the crisis, which has fully developed the destructive nature of this Revolution—a Revolution, which has spread devastation and misery in all Countries, and under all Governments, *Republican* as well as Monarchical, where its principles have prevailed. We attempt not, upon this occasion,

and at this advanced period of the War, to prove or illustrate this remark. Is not the truth of it felt far and wide? Is not the Sword of the enemy drunk with Blood? Has it not filled the civilized world with the voice of weeping, mourning, and lamentation? We need not now have recourse to declamation; for we have awful and tremendous facts to advert to—facts which cannot be disputed or denied, and which no powers of language can fully describe. Let it then be remembered, that this is not a war for Conquest, for Extent of Territory, or for any earthly Aggrandizement; but that it is a War in Defence of your King, of your Country, and of all the Civil and Ecclesiastical Blessings you enjoy. As Christians, reverencing that holy Religion, which has the exclusive stamp and authority of Heaven upon it—as Subjects of a Sovereign, who wills but what the Law prescribes—as members of a Constitution, the wonder and envy of the world—as Husbands, Fathers, and Brothers, with all these relative sensibilities,

which

which are the ornament and happiness of our common nature—through all these important and endearing relations, we call upon you to be firm, determined, and zealous in the momentous cause in which you are engaged. And that you may not relax in your manly and generous efforts, ever recal to mind the alarming nature and character of the present Contest—a Contest in which “*Every thing is gained that is not lost.*” We have often had Frenchmen to fight with, but never had we *such* Frenchmen as the present. They are the Offspring of Democracy; they live only in the midst of Storms and of Tempests; and the Death of Others is Life to Them.

Suffice it to say, that they are the Converts of a new Philosophy, whose object is * “The
Destruction

* Vide Abbe Barruel and Professor Robertson.

Though these Gentlemen may not attribute to other causes that degree of Influence, which they really had in the Revolution; yet they furnish us, upon the most authentic proofs and documents, with those causes, which account for
the

Destruction of the Altar, and the Throne."
 Ever since the foundation of the World there never was perhaps a Conspiracy conducted with such tremendous power, and to so tremendous an end. It strikes not only at Earthly Thrones, but at the Throne of Heaven. It connects, what we might a priori suppose, *Infidelity with Rebellion*. Its Proselytes are "presumptuous, self-willed, not afraid to speak evil of Dignities, denying the Lord that bought them with a Price." The "Devil" seems to have "come down with great wrath, knowing that his time is short." But "the Lord liveth, and the Gates of Hell shall not prevail."

Under a full conviction that it is our Wealth, our Commerce, our controlling Power, that have roused their envy and indignation—and that
 their

the awful character of the present War, and which fully solve those Phænomena, which have astonished the Christian world. As that great and illustrious Statesman, Burke, has observed, We are indeed at War with an "Armed Doctrine."

their chief design is to "blot us out from under
 Heaven" as a great and independent Nation—
 let me exhort you "to be of good courage,"
 and to persevere in the laudable exertions which
 you have hitherto shewn. True Zeal rises with
 Danger. When Cowards tremble, Brave Men
 are the most courageous. To foresee evils;
 to guard against them with wisdom and circum-
 spection; and, when they arrive, to meet them
 with ardor—this is true Magnanimity. Though
 Light begins to break through the tremendous
 Gloom, with which we have been surrounded;
 yet we must "rejoice with fear and trembling."
 We must not relax, whilst we have such a
 powerful and insidious enemy to contend with.
 Patriotism is a Christian Duty. A true Patriot
 has no interest distinct from, independent of,
 and much less opposite to the real interests of
 his Country. He is one with the Nation to
 which he belongs; and is content to rise and
 fall with the welfare of the State of which he
 is a member. If ever there was a period
 which

which ought to call up your patriotism into vigorous exercise—if ever there was a period when you ought to rally round the Constitution, Civil and Ecclesiastical—this is the period. If we continue but true to ourselves, as we have been, we need not fear. A great and high-spirited Nation, faithful to itself, cannot be overcome; unless Heaven decree its overthrow. A Nation like this in time of danger, will throw out such resources and energies as will confound and dismay the most powerful adversary. Whilst therefore the enemy has been endeavouring, in this happy Kingdom, to effect his conquests through the medium of his principles; whilst “DIVIDE AND REIGN” has been his Maxim here as well as in other countries, I am rejoiced to say, notwithstanding the foul conspiracies that have prevailed amongst a few, that the *Nation at large* has discovered but *one voice*, and *one mind*; and that it is this Spirit of Unanimity, combined with the wisdom and vigilance of the Executive Government,

which

which has alarmed and struck terror into the Public Foe, and confounded him in his black and infernal designs against Us. Never did England stand higher in the scale of Nations, than she does at this moment. She has roused the Kingdoms of the earth from their stupor; and has shewn them, by her Example as well as Precepts, that Fear is a wretched Politician; that her measures are as weak as they are mean and pusillanimous. Whence our vast extensive Fleets? whence our great military internal Defence? whence our splendid Contributions? whence these unparalleled exertions, but from the Zeal, Unanimity, and Patriotism of our Country. Under Providence, we may be justly called the *Saviours of the World*.

Allow me, under the influence of this animating reflection, to congratulate You, my Honoured Countrymen, on the truly military appearance you make on the present memorable

morable occasion. You have long been the
 honourable and worthy Guardians of the Wealth
 and Credit of the Nation ; and you now stand
 forth as its able and zealous defenders. Your
 disinterested and independent Conduct casts
 the greatest lustre upon yourselves, whilst it
 affords security to the Country at large, and
 more especially to the BANK OF ENGLAND,
the Grand Depository of the Wealth, not only of
this, but also of other Kingdoms. These Colours,
 which I have had the honor to consecrate,
 plead with a silent but powerful eloquence in
 behalf of your King, your Country, and all the
 various and inestimable Blessings to which I
 have alluded. They likewise serve as Sacred
 Emblems and Elegant Memorials, through
 which you may contemplate the Praise and
 Admiration with which your Loyalty and Zeal
 are honored by the Fair Sex, the best and most
 amiable part of the Human Race. The Character
 of the Lady, who will present to you, Sir, these
 Colours, reflects additional splendor on their
 value; and her presence on this public occasion,

I am

I am confident, will add fresh ardor to your zeal, and inspire you with the most manly and generous sentiments. I conclude in addressing you all, my Honoured Friends, in the sacred and authoritative language of an Apostle, "Watch ye, stand fast in the Faith, quit you like Men, be strong."

THE
SPEECH
OF
MRS. THORNTON.

GENTLEMEN,

I cannot contemplate the present scene, without partaking in those gratifying emotions which I am persuaded the Spectacle must excite in the minds of all who surround me.— Where! but in the happy Land to which we belong, could such a Spectacle be exhibited? A Land! in which we behold Men of all Ranks, Situations, Habits, and Professions, instead of declining and shrinking back from labour and danger, pressing forward at whatever expence of Toil or Peril, in the defence of their King and Country. Our Enemies had vainly flattered themselves, that Military exertions were foreign to the habits of Commercial Men: but, in the estimation of our Character, they had forgotten we were BRITONS. We have proved to them, that under the ennobling influence of that unrivalled Constitution, which through the Blessing of Providence we enjoy, every Rank and Profession

Profession (together with its own peculiar Habits) combines those Qualities which as Britons are common to them all.

You Gentlemen have associated under the influence of these generous Emotions.

Let these Banners be the Centre of your Union, and the Memorial of your Public Zeal.

May the same spirit of energy and unanimity, which has raised our Country to its present Eminence, long continue, and may You, who have been so justly distinguished as the Guardians of Public Credit, stand forth its zealous Defenders, the Protectors of Commerce, and thereby the Benefactors of Mankind.

THE REPLY.

MADAM,

THE Bank Volunteers assembled here this day, though generally engaged in far different pursuits, felt in common with their countrymen, that in the hour of danger they had other duties to fulfil; and in the enviable situation of their Commander, I have no hesitation to declare my firm reliance on them, fully persuaded, that, consistent with the first great object of our association, the immediate protection of the Bank, they will shrink from no service which Circumstances may require at their hands. The very elegant and impressive manner in which you, Madam, have reminded us of the important truth, that we live under one of the freest and best Constitutions in the world, gives a double value to the Colours you have done us the honour to present to our regiment. I feel an entire conviction that these Colours will, in every extremity, be defended with not less spirit than we have engaged,
and

and are well determined to exert, in defence of the large national treasures committed to our care; treasures not wrung from the oppressed, nor the spoils of plundered nations, but the voluntary tribute of the world, to the industry, the enterprise, the honour and integrity of this happy country.

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